

NASCAR LEGENDS

MEMORABLE MEN, MOMENTS, AND MACHINES IN RACING HISTORY

ROBERT EDELSTEIN

AUTHOR OF *FULL THROTTLE* AND *NASCAR GENERATIONS*



Legends

**Memorable Men, Moments, and
Machines in Racing History**

Robert Edelstein

藏书章



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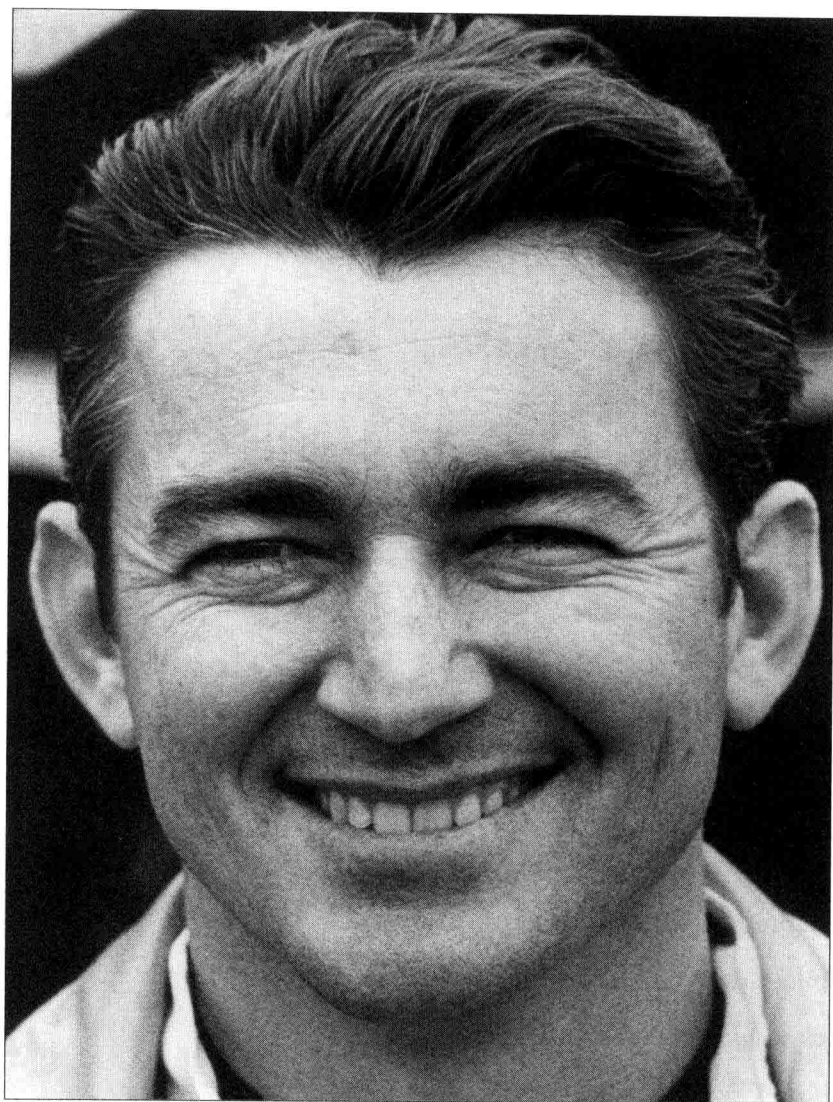
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*For Loren, Dave, and my mom,
and in memory of my dad*



By 1969, Bobby Allison was already a popular NASCAR star on the rise.

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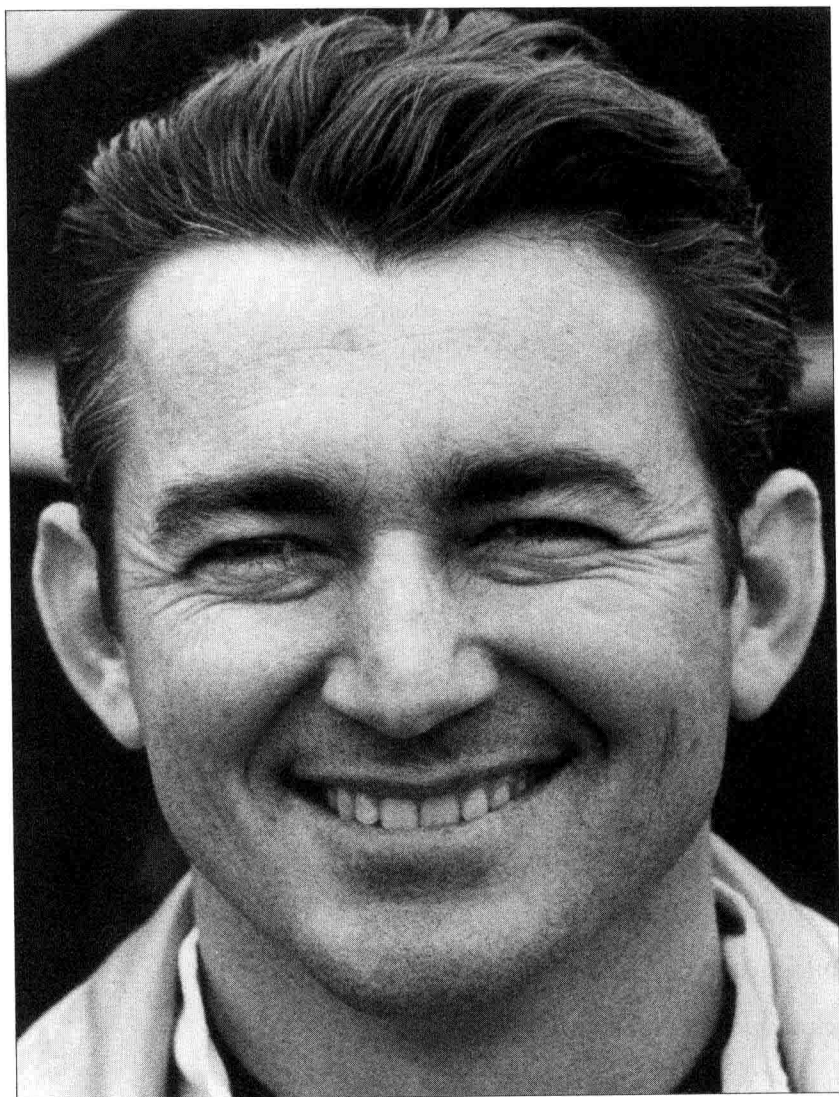
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Introduction: Bobby

November 1993

“I have shied away from proclaiming that I am retired with the idea that maybe I will do a race somewhere, someday, rather than to be injured and put out of a career. Then I could take that checkered flag and step out of the car and say, okay, now I quit. It’s a thought that makes me smile.”

—BOBBY ALLISON, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, November 1993

THEY HAD SET UP A MAKESHIFT STAGE, A WIDE PLATFORM ON RISERS, in a spacious hallway outside several ballrooms in the Waldorf-Astoria. It seemed an informal setting in such a space of old New York grandeur but it appeared to fit the occasion: a NASCAR press conference introducing the top drivers of the 1993 season. Two days later, the sport’s big post-season event—the NASCAR Winston Cup championship banquet—would be held in the Waldorf’s Grand Ballroom, honoring champ Dale Earnhardt. The tuxedos would be out for that one.

I was there to do my first-ever in-person interview with a stock car racer. I had done two other interviews with NASCAR drivers the previous year. The first one, with Richard Petty, had been conducted through the mail; with word that the King had hearing difficulties, his PR rep, Chuck Spicer, read me Petty’s answers to questions I’d sent to him. And then I did a brief phone interview with Richard’s son, Kyle. I found Richard Petty’s answers especially intriguing. His father had knocked him out of the way in his first-ever race, and he’d broken just